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OREGON FLORA NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Number 1 • Oregon State University • February 1997

Veva Stansell, Curry County botanist

by Camille V. Tipton

Long-time plant enthusiast Veva Stansell knows there is much work to be done when it comes to cataloguing plants in Oregon. But the 67-year-old Southwestern Oregon resident welcomes the challenge.

"There are times I wish I lived closer to a University, but on the other hand there are advantages to living far away," said Veva, the Coos and Curry County Regional Coordinator for the Oregon Plant Atlas Project.

"One of the things that sparks the imagination is that this corner of Oregon has a lot of botanical secrets to be discovered yet," said Veva, who lives near Gold Beach, at Pistol River. "It hasn't been studied all that much. Who knows what will be found?"

Veva was born on July 20, 1929 in Gold Beach, to Otto and Elma Ismert. In 1936, her family moved to a farm near Pistol River where they raised cows and other

See Veva, page 2

Veva Stansell and son Dave, visiting their family homestead.

Atlas project update

by Bruce Newhouse and Scott Sundberg

The April 1996 *Oregon Flora Newsletter* contained an article about the beginning of field work to gather data for the Oregon Plant Atlas Project. Since that time, we've made great progress. Twelve volunteer regional coordinators are organizing field efforts to make plant lists for previously unexplored areas (see OFN April 1996). This field work is being coordinated through the Native Plant Society of Oregon.

Many Atlas trips occurred during the 1996 field season, and more are being planned for the next couple of years. Some trips occur even during the winter to record sightings of plants that are more visible then. For example, a group of Eugene botanists made a trip to record locations of canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) in Lane County. This evergreen species was not previously known to occur north of Douglas County. For the Atlas Project, listing locations for one or two uncommon plants (or plants uncommon in a given region) can be just as important as producing a longer list for a single site.

At the time of this writing, we've accumulated over 750 lists and know of hundreds more to come (see map, back page). Some of the more extensive sets of lists were sent in by Jenny Dimling from the Willamette and Siuslaw National Forest databases. Some lists have also been submitted in electronic form, most notably those sent by Lance Holmberg of the Mt. Hood National Forest and Wilbur Bluhm and Don Roberts of the Willamette Chapter of the Native Plant Society.

Since last October we have greatly improved the Atlas database. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Clay Gautier, a computer programmer and software test engineer, we now have an excellent system for placing lists in the database. So far over 17,500 records from 131 lists have been entered! With Clay's data entry form, this work now goes very quickly.

The Atlas Project is already producing some maps. For example, the Carex Working Group has recently run

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(see p

Veva, from front page

livestock. She graduated from Gold Beach High School in 1947 in a class of 16 students. In 1948, she married Bob Stansell. They raised their three sons in Gold Beach, and in 1970 the couple moved back to Pistol River. As this article was being written we learned that Bob Stansell lost a brave fight with lung cancer last December 6th.

Veva's interest in botany first stirred while she was trail-riding in Curry County's back country. Like many botany enthusiasts, she began to notice the differences between coastal and mountain plants.

"Wildflower books with pictures helped a little, but I had more questions than answers," she explained. "Time marched on, and when our boys were high school students, a young man named Fred Bowen joined the Gold Beach High School staff as a Biology teacher.

"Fred gave some evening classes in plant identification, and lo and behold, that little light bulb above my head began to flash. I discovered floras by Peck and Jepson, and Randall's *Manual of Oregon Trees and Shrubs*. A brand new world!"

Veva is currently the vice-president of the Native Plant Society of Oregon and has been involved with the organization since its early days.

Veva loves botanizing in her corner of the state. Without a doubt, she says, her favorite habitats are found on serpentine and peridotite soils where many species of broadleaf shrubs and the early spring blooms of *Erythronium* and *Trillium* can be found. "I also love the high Siskiyous and other Klamath Ranges, the mountain lakes and ponds with unknown monocots, *Lewisia* adorning knife-edge ridges, niches in the rocks where odd ferns cling," she said. "In winter, or when it's been too long between outings, daydreams of these places sneak in behind my eyelids and soothe me."

Although Veva is currently retired, she has held an assortment of jobs including waitress, janitor, laborer in plywood and stud mills, florist, nursery worker, botany technician for the Bureau of Land Management and Gold Beach Ranger District, and finally District Botanist for the US Forest Service (USFS) in Gold Beach.

Before her employment with the USFS, Veva became intensely interested in public land use and sensitive plants. These interests led to volunteer work with the USFS, The Nature Conservancy, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Malheur Field Station, Jepson Herbarium, and various other agencies and conservation groups.

She received the Conservation Award from the Daughters of the American Republic; the USFS Regional Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species Habitat Management Award; and a USFS National Award for Individual Volunteer Service that included a trip to Washington, DC.

Since retiring, Veva has had more time to spend with her family, attend sports and other functions in which her grandchildren are involved, and read more books. "But most important is to continue to get out in the hills to explore new places and return to old favorites."

OFN moving to three issues per year

Beginning with the present issue, the *Oregon Flora Newsletter* will be published three times per year, in February, June and October. ---*Editor*

Oregon Flora Project joins OCID

The Flora project has joined the Oregon Coalition of Interdisciplinary Databases. OCID's goal is to provide the framework for simultaneously accessing information from a variety of biological databases. Eventually it will be possible to view a map showing the Oregon distribution of a butterfly superimposed on that of its host plant! You can learn more about OCID by visiting its web site at http://www.nacse.org/ocid.

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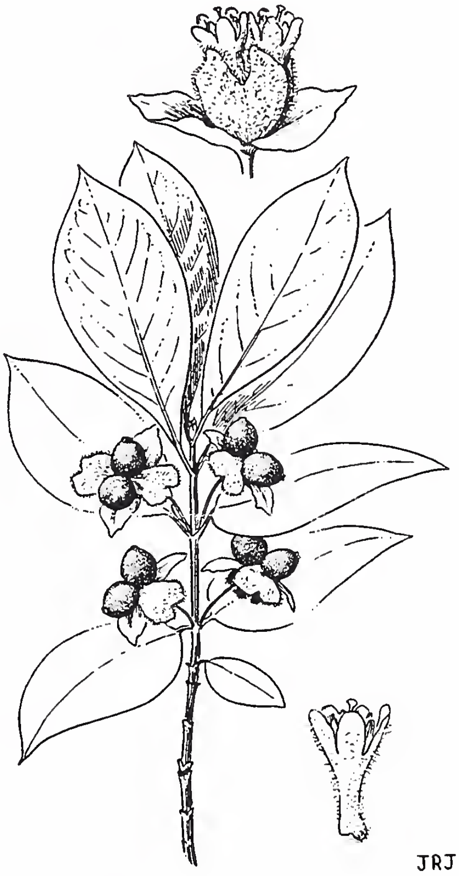
Notes on some honeysuckles and elderberries (Caprifoliaceae)

by Henrietta L. Chambers

I have just completed the treatment of *Lonicera* and part of *Sambucus* for the Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist and want to share a few of my observations. In regard to *Lonicera involucrata* (twinberry), I have departed from the treatments in several of the standard manuals and floras of the northwest and am following that of Lauramay Dempster in *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*.

I recognize two varieties of *Lonicera involucrata* in Oregon that are separated geographically, but which have very few morphological differences that are apparent on herbarium specimens. Variety *involucrata* grows in moist places in mountainous areas throughout the state, while var. *ledebourii* is a coastal taxon, occurring from northern California to British Columbia. Hitchcock, in *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, recognized the two varieties, but gave the northern limit of var. *ledebourii* as Lane County, Oregon. However, this apparently was an error. The major morphological differences are flower size and color; but, as you might guess, immature flowers can be a problem, dried flowers may fade, and some herbarium specimens lack flowers. The flower size difference does not seem very great—only 0.5 cm — but the corollas are seldom longer than 1.5 cm in var. *involucrata* and 1.5-2.0 cm long in var. *ledebourii*. Thus, that 0.5 cm difference makes the corolla length one-fourth greater in the coastal variety. Additionally, the corollas are a pure yellow in var. *involucrata* but may be tinged on the outside with orange or red in var. *ledebourii*.



Twinberry, *Lonicera involucrata* var. *involucrata* (shown here) is the yellow flowered variety found in mountainous areas. Oregon's coastal twinberry, *L. involucrata* var. *ledebourii* has slightly larger corollas and flowers which may be tinged with orange. Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish from Hitchcock et al. 1969, *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, courtesy of University of Washington Press.

Moving to *Lonicera hispidula* (hairy honeysuckle), Dempster indicates that var. *vacillans* occurs from southern California to southern Oregon; however, in this case, I disagree. I found that the southern Oregon specimens lack the glandular hairs (or have very few glands on the corollas and flowering stems) that are so characteristic of var. *vacillans*. They are more like var. *hispidula*, which is widespread in Oregon (Klamath Mountains, West Cascades, Willamette Valley, and Columbia Basin). It appears to me that the southern Oregon plants show some gene exchange with var. *vacillans*, but are not representative of that taxon. I believe we have only var. *hispidula* in Oregon, but I have annotated some of our southern Oregon specimens *L. hispidula* var. *hispidula* with the notation "some genetic traits from var. *vacillans*."

We are going to have to accustom ourselves to a new name for one of our elderberries. The name of the common blue elderberry has fallen victim to the Rule of Priority (*International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*). *Sambucus mexicana* C. Presl ex DC. was published in 1830 (*Prodromus* 4:322) and has priority over *S. cerulea* Raf. which was published in 1838 (*Alsographia Americana* 48). It also has priority over the name used in Peck's *Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon*, *S. glauca* Nutt. which was published in 1841. Dempster correctly lists *S. cerulea* Raf. as a synonym under *S. mexicana* in *Jepson's Manual* and says "variable, currently impossible to split in unified sub-groups; detailed study warranted." Perhaps someone will take up her challenge!

This article and the following one on Stachys *are examples of things we have learned while working on the Oregon Checklist.* —*Editor*

Hedgenettles for the Oregon Flora Checklist

by Kenton L. Chambers and Henrietta L. Chambers

The hedgenettle genus *Stachys* is one of those atypical members of the mint family (Lamiaceae) which does *not* have a sage-like fragrance. The odor of the foliage is often described as "rank," defined in the dictionary as "malodorous with a strong smell that is not necessarily bad in quality." Stout, 4-angled stems and opposite leaves with cordate-based blades, plus a tendency to grow in wet places, give the plants a superficial resemblance to nettles (*Urtica*), but no stinging hairs are present.

Four species of *Stachys* occur in Oregon. When we reviewed the genus for the Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist, we found a disparity between the taxonomic treatment of two of the species in standard reference floras for the Pacific Northwest versus that in *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. The name *Stachys ajugoides* Benth. is used in that book for plants which have gone by the names *S. rigida* and *S. mexicana* (also called *S. emersonii*) in Peck's *Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon*, *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*, and even the previous *A California Flora* by Munz and Keck. The purpose of this note is to discuss the taxonomy we chose to present in the Checklist and to help readers distinguish among the Oregon species.

There is no difficulty in recognizing four species in Oregon; the accepted names for these are *Stachys pilosa* Nutt., *S. cooleyae* A. Heller, *S. mexicana* Benth., and *S. rigida* Nutt. ex Benth (see key on p. 5). The latter two species were lumped as *S. ajugoides* var. *rigida* in *The Jepson Manual*, whose authors apparently concluded that there was too much intergradation in pubescence, flower color, and leaf shape to allow separation into three species. Willis Jepson himself, in his *Flora of California* (volume 3, 1943), had reduced *S. rigida* to a variety of *S. ajugoides*. In a publication perhaps overlooked by the California authors, the Canadian botanists G. A. Mulligan and D. B. Munro (in *Naturaliste Canadien*, vol. 116, 1989) not only separated *S. rigida* and *S. mexicana* from *S. ajugoides,* but also split out two new California species, *S. bergii* and *S. stebbinsii*. Chromosome numbers as well as leaf shape and pubescence play a major role in Mulligan and Munro's circumscription of these and other taxa.

We do not agree with the authors of *The Jepson Manual* that *Stachys mexicana* and *S. rigida* are a single species nor that they belong within *S. ajugoides*. There is little if any intergradation between these two taxa in Oregon. *Stachys mexicana* is principally on the immediate coast and in the Coast Range (rarely in the southern Cascades) and is distinguished by having some of its flowers borne in the axils of several pairs of long-petiolate upper stem leaves. *Stachys rigida* is common in the Coast Range, Cascades, and Siskiyous but is seldom found near the ocean; its lowest flowers may be in the axils of paired leaves, but these leaves are short-petiolate or sessile and are smaller than those of the main stem. In both taxa, the later-formed flower clusters are subtended by much-reduced bracts; flower color is pink in *S. mexicana* and pink varying to white in *S. rigida.*

Stachys cooleyae differs from both the above species in having larger, red-purple flowers, whose corolla tubes range in length from 15-25 mm, versus 6-14 mm in *S. mexicana* and *S. rigida*. The species is abundant on both the east and west flanks of the Cascades. It is uncommon in the Coast Range, where we believe some hybridization occurs with *S. mexicana*. In plants with flowers of intermediate size, we use the name *mexicana* if there are flower clusters in the axils of at least two pairs of petiolate stem leaves, and the name *cooleyae* if there is no more than one such floral cluster—the next upper set of flowers being associated with bracts that are at the most 1.5 times as long as the corollas.

In marshy areas of central and eastern Oregon is found the widespread North American species *Stachys pilosa.* This was formerly known in our regional floras as *S. palustris* ssp. *pilosa*; however, Mulligan and Munro give convincing evidence from chromosome numbers and morphology that it should be separated from the European species *S. palustris*. Its lower stem leaves are sessile or very short-petiolate (less than 1/5 the length of the blade), whereas plants of *S. rigida* in that same region have longer petioles on their lowest stem leaves.

Stachys bergii Mulligan & Munro (formerly called *S. rigida* ssp. *lanata* Epling) is a newly recognized species of Del Norte County, California, found mainly in the Smith River Canyon. It may well occur in adjacent Curry County, Oregon, up to 2,500 feet elevation in river canyons above the coastal fog belt. It is a small plant, 15-40 cm tall, found often (or always?) on serpentine. Its leaves are densely whitish tomentose or woolly below, with a petiole less than 1 cm long; otherwise it resembles *S. rigida*. Since it has not yet been collected in Oregon, we do not include it in the accompanying key. Oregon collectors, be on the lookout!

Key to Oregon species of *Stachys*

by K.L. and H.L. Chambers

1 Flowers red-purple; corolla tube 15-25 mm long; no more than one upper pair of large, distinctly petiolate stem leaves bearing flowers in their axils; Cascades and (less commonly) Coast Range ....*S. cooleyae*

1 Flowers pink-purple to white; corolla tube 6-14 mm long

  2 Two or more pairs of upper, long-petiolate stem leaves bearing flowers in their axils; corolla pink-purple or pink; coast and Coast Range (rare in south Cascades) ....*S. mexicana*

  2 Leaves subtending lowest 1 or 2 flower clusters sessile or very short-petiolate; corolla pink-purple to white; widespread but rare on the immediate coast

    3 Leaves near base of stem with petioles 1/5 or more the length of the blade; teeth of calyx triangular, 1/3 or less the length of the tube (excluding spine-tip); both east and west of Cascades ....*S. rigida*

    3 Leaves near base of stem with petioles none or less than 1/5 the length of the blade; teeth of calyx linear-lanceolate, more than 1/3 the length of the tube; east of Cascades ....*S. pilosa*

Illustrations of *Erythronium oregonum* on the front and back covers by Linda Ann Vorobik.

Thanks!

We value the continuing support of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, which has recently awarded the Flora project a grant. Contributions, which are a vital part of our funding, have been received from many individuals since the last newsletter. Thanks to: Sara Barnum & Joyce Beeman, Kat Beal, Jennifer Beigel, Molly & Lewis Grothaus, Linda Hardison, Aaron & Sara Liston, Rhoda Love, Esther & Peter McEvoy, Robert Ornduff, Theodore Palmer, Sandy Poinsett, Bob Powne, Don Roberts, Kareen Sturgeon, Mildred Thiele.

Thanks to the following people who helped the project by volunteering (*), sending in species lists or specimens, or providing information on Oregon plants: Jenny Baker, Bruce Barnes, Wilbur Bluhm, Mike Bohannon, Lynda Boyer, David Bradney, Dick Brainerd, Richard Brock, Paula Brooks, Steve Brunsfeld, John Christy, Ellen Clark*, Jenny Dimling, Jim Duncan, Nancy Eid, Clay Gautier*, Lance Holmberg, Keli Kuykendahl*, Rani Landerholm*, Cathy Maxwell, Barbara Mumblo, Suzi Patton*, Don Roberts, Wayne Rolle, Kareen Sturgeon, Jon Titus, Alison Voss, George Ward, Phil Warner*, Margriet Wetherwax, William Winner, Nancy Wogan.

Atlas project, from front page

a set of draft "dot" maps for 124 sedge taxa. These maps can be viewed in the OSU Herbarium with the assistance of a Carex Working Group member.

We will keep readers posted on the progress of the Atlas Project. Meanwhile, if you have a bent for field work, exploration, and plant identification, let us hear from you. We will be delighted to put you in touch with the coordinator in the region you wish to explore. Also, if you would like to help with data entry, there is a lot to do.

You can reach Bruce Newhouse, coordinator for field surveys, at 2525 Potter St., Eugene, OR 97405; (541)343-2364; newhouse@efn.org or Scott Sundberg at the address on page 2.

To be added to our mailing list (if not already on it):

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Would you like to make a donation?

Tax-deductable donations can be made to the Oregon Flora Project by sending a check made out to the Oregon State University Foundation to Scott Sundberg at the address on page 2. Please note on the check that it is for the Oregon Flora Project. Your donations go primarily toward newsletter expenses and student wages.

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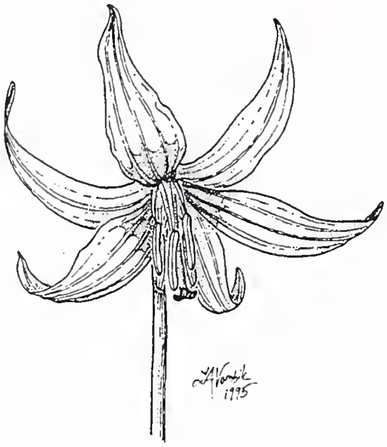

~~Patricia K. Holmgren~~
~~The New York Botanical Garden~~
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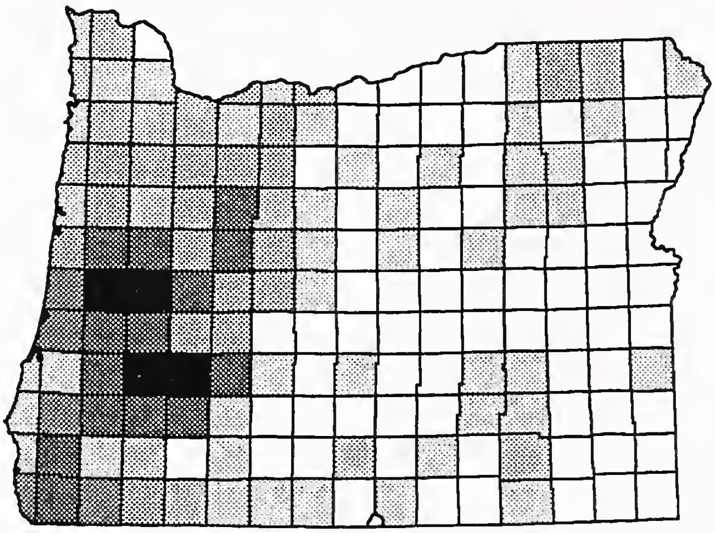
Did you know?

- Two of Oregon's best-known women botanists, Helen Gilkey and Lilla Leach were born in the same month of the year 1886 exactly one week apart, Helen on March 6 in Montesano, Washington, and Lilla on March 13 in Barlow, Oregon.
- The UO Herbarium was nearly moved to OSU in 1932. The State Board, in an effort to save $2,180,000 in Higher Education funds, determined to eliminate the sciences in Eugene. At the time the curators were L. F. Henderson at UO and Helen Gilkey at OSU. Evidently there was a reprieve, as the UO Herbarium did not move until 1993 and Henderson remained curator until 1939.
- Last summer, Veva Stansell found the noxious introduced weed, *Senecio mikanioides* near Pistol River on the Oregon coast. This African species, called "German ivy," should be eliminated whenever and wherever it is encountered. As Ken Chambers wrote to Veva: "You would probably do a favor to future weed-control persons by eradicating it now."

Number of species lists per block

Map showing number of lists so far received for each Atlas block.



Number of Species Lists

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■ 51 or more

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OREGON FLORA NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Number 2 • Oregon State University • June 1997

Wilbur Bluhm horticulturist, photographer, conservationist

by Camille V. Tipton

Wilbur Bluhm is at home in the Oregon wilderness. The now retired professor of horticulture has traveled to all corners our state to photograph more than 1,500 plant species native to Oregon and has given many programs on native plants to audiences throughout the Pacific Northwest.

He is also an active volunteer with the Oregon Plant Atlas Project, having contributed more than 65 plant checklists and suggested several new taxa to the Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist.

"The historical landscape and flora of the Willamette Valley has also been a special interest of mine," he said, adding that nursery production and landscape use of Northwest native plants is a favorite topic.

Wilbur formerly worked as an Extension Agent for the University of Nebraska and for Oregon State University. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree

See Wilbur, page 8

Wilbur and Mary Bluhm

Project news: Asteraceae checklist to be released this fall

by Scott Sundberg

Checklist project: We have been working on the Checklist Project since 1994. As OFN readers know, the Checklist is a list of all native and naturalized vascular plants in Oregon. We are now planning to release the Checklist in stages, starting with the Asteraceae. Keep an eye on our web site this fall for an announcement (see address bottom of page eight).

Other aspects of the Checklist continue to progress with many draft treatments of genera submitted over the past few months. We now have advanced drafts for about 30% of Oregon plant taxa. Treatments have so far been submitted for portions of 45 families, including all of the Cyperaceae, Polemoniaceae, Lamiaceae, Crassulaceae, Campanulaceae and Rhamnaceae and most of the Asteraceae, Fabaceae, and Hydrophyllaceae.

Countless additional improvements have been made to the rest of the list. Rhoda Love has nearly completed a thorough review of common names. We continue to add taxa, especially range extensions from neighboring states and cultivated plants that have become naturalized. The Checklist now has 4428 accepted names and 2048 synonyms.

Flora project: Our long-range goal is to write an illustrated Flora of Oregon and to make it available in both printed and digital forms. The electronic Flora will be fully integrated, linking the checklist, keys and descriptions, illustrations, and the electronic Atlas. Although we are focussing our efforts on the Checklist and Atlas at this time, we are also building the infrastructure for the Flora itself. Rhoda Love, Gil Voss and others have been systematically searching scientific journals for articles pertaining to Oregon plants; the OSU herbarium is actively being curated to make work on the Flora more efficient; and the herbarium has enhanced its computer facilities. In the fall we will begin writing the Contributors' Guide for the Flora.

Atlas project: Spring is the time for being out of doors, and the weather in Oregon has been wonderful

See Project news, page 8

(p. 10)

Wilbur, from front page

at the University of Nebraska and his Master of Science at Purdue University. He also attended the University of Illinois and Oregon State University for post-graduate studies.

Wilbur says that although he has never been in the nursery business, he has enjoyed working with plant growers and contributing to the field.

"As a professional horticulturist, I have had the opportunity to work with this industry in Oregon since it was small and have seen it become one of Oregon's largest agricultural enterprises," he said. Most recently, he has acted as a consultant to growers and to the Association of Nurserymen's Oregon Garden Project.

Currently, Wilbur works as the secretary-treasurer of the International Plant Propagator's Society (Western Region), and teaches horticulture part-time at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. He is beginning his fourth term on the Berry Botanic Garden board in Portland and is a member of the advisory panel to the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden in St. Paul, Oregon.

Furthermore, Wilbur helped establish the Willamette Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon which was one of the first chapters to form outside of Portland in 1977. He later became Chapter President, then state Vice President. He has led many field trips and worked on a variety of NPSO projects. Wilbur's conservation activities include organizing the Salem Beautification Committee, supporting the Nature Conservancy and the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanical Garden, a native plant garden in Dallas, Oregon. His involvement with land use activities led to his receiving the US Department of Agriculture Superior Service Award in 1974.

A number of people inspired Wilbur throughout his life including former professors Dr. Carl Rosenquist, botany professor at the University of Nebraska and Dr. Don Paarlberg, at Purdue University.

"It may seem like a cliché, but my parents certainly had a profound effect upon my life," he said. "And my wife, Mary, has encouraged and supported me through thick and thin and in so doing has been most influential in my life."

Wilbur met Mary Brunzell at the University of Nebraska and they married in 1953. They have three children and six grandchildren, all of whom live in Oregon.

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Project news, continued from front page

most days this season. Lists are being compiled for the Atlas project by a number of individuals who have adopted blocks. The Native Plant Society of Oregon High Desert and Emerald chapters have scheduled field trips this summer for making Atlas lists. Meanwhile, back at OSU, Kelly Huynh and Alisa Anderson have been processing and entering data. So far 41,000 records have been entered from 314 species lists. We have recently received hundreds of lists from Jackson and Josephine counties that were gathered from BLM files and photocopied by Dick Straw.

Symposium volume published

Conservation and Management of Native Plants and Fungi—Proceedings of an Oregon Conference on the Conservation and Management of Native Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Fungi is now available from the Native Plant Society of Oregon.

This volume was edited by Thomas N. Kaye, Aaron Liston, Rhoda M. Love, Daniel L. Luoma, Robert J. Meinke, and Mark V. Wilson and contains a foreword by Reed F. Noss. The book contains 40 papers by symposium contributors.

To order, send a $25 check or money order to NPSO, 804 Jefferson Avenue, La Grande, Oregon, 97850.

As different as apples and pears

by Rhoda Love

Working on the pome-fruited members of the Rose Family for the Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist, I ran into a controversy which has apparently been brewing (like apple cider?) since pre-Linnaean times: namely, should apples and pears both be placed in the pear genus, *Pyrus*? My immediate task in this case, was to provide a name for the wild crabapple of the Pacific Coast. This is our pretty little dark-fruited tree which Peck (*A Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon*) called *Pyrus diversifolia* Bong., and Hitchcock (*Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*) called *Pyrus fusca* Raf.

Abrams (*Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*) and Thomas J. Rosatti (in Hickman, *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*) both placed the crabapple in *Malus*, the apple genus, calling the species *Malus fusca*. (Raf.) C. Schneider.

Pyrus L. was the genus name given to both apples and pears by Linnaeus in *Genera Plantarum*, 1754; while *Malus* [Tourn.] Mill. was the pre-Linnaean name used for the apple genus by Tournefort and later adopted by Miller in the 8th edition of his immensely influential *Gardener's Dictionary* in 1768.

An 1833 drawing of Malus fusca *(then called* Pyrus rivularis*) from* Flora Borealis-Americana or The Botany of the Northern Parts of British America, *by William Jackson Hooker, LL.D, F.R.A., and L.S. This drawing was done from a collection by David Douglas who saw it " ... on the banks of streams near the ocean, from the mouth of the Columbia northwards." Hooker notes that the Chinook Indians called the edible fruits Pow-itch.*

Presumably Peck and Hitchcock, like Linnaeus, the great classifier, felt that the similarities between apples and pears were more important than the differences. There is no doubt that the two groups are rather alike with their fleshy pomes and similar spring blossoms.

On the other hand, I found that the great American botanist and horticulturist, Liberty Hyde Bailey, although originally in the single-genus camp (*Manual of Cultivated Plants*, 1924), broke away and put apples in *Malus* and pears in *Pyrus* in the 1949 edition of this work.

In a charming article in *Gentes Herbarum* (1949 8:40) available in the OSU library, Bailey lists six morphological features which he feels can be used to distinguish apples from pears. Several of these are: apple blossoms are mostly borne in umbels and pears in racemes; apple fruits lack stone cells while pear fruits have them; apple buds and young growth are tomentose while pear growth is mostly glabrous. Another distinction noted in Bailey's Manual and also in *Flora Europaea* (1968) is that *Malus* styles are usually connate 1/3 to 2/3 their length while *Pyrus* styles are mostly free.

M. N. Westwood, Professor Emeritus of Horticulture at Oregon State University recently told me that, under normal circumstances, grafts and hybridizations between apples and pears fail (although they have been accomplished using certain strains of the fruit and specific techniques). The general incompatibility of the groups seems to add credence to the agument that they differ genetically.

The modern tendency to separate apples and pears continues to the present where recent papers by experts on the pome-fruited rose family members (for example, Phipps, 1990, *Canadian Journal of Botany*, 68:2209; and Dickson, 1991, *Systematic Botany*, 16:363) split the two groups into *Malus* and *Pyrus*. I have by no means had the opportunity to study the world's many species of apples and pears, and must rely on experts who have noted differences that separate the two genera.

This has all been rather a long way to go about stating for OFN readers that, for the Oregon Flora Checklist, I have been convinced by Bailey, the editors of *Flora Europaea*, Phipps, Dickson, and Rosatti in the *Jepson Manual*, and have decided to call our native Oregon crabapple *Malus fusca*.

Jean Siddall

(1930-1997)

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jean L. Siddall, who died on May 3, 1997 of complications from a brain tumor.

Jean will be remembered for a great many important activities, but perhaps the most significant is her contribution to our present knowledge of Oregon's rare and endangered plants.

In the early 1970s Jean contacted Ken Chambers, then Curator of the Herbarium at OSU, about assembling a comprehensive list of Oregon's rare plants. Prior to the US Endangered Species Act of 1973, Dr. Chambers had prepared a preliminary list of Oregon rare species, focused on endemics. Jean subsequently met with him to incorporate species which she felt were becoming rare through threats from human activities. A preliminary list which the two put together in 1973 was used by the Smithsonian Institution in its 1978 book, "Endangered and Threatened Plants of the United States."

Jean then took on the task of gathering information on Oregon's rare plants. She set up her central files in a basement office in her home, under the organizational title "Oregon Rare and Endangered Plant Project." Because these were the days before personal computers, the data files were typed by her and her major helpers, one of whom was Sue Vrilakas. Sue recalls that Jean, with funds from a contract with the Fish and Wildlife Service, bought desks, file cabinets, typewriters, punch cards, and other office materials and hired Sue, Bonnie Brunkow, Rick Brown, Carolyn Wright, and Lois Kemp as assistants.

Ken writes: "Jean was a superb organizer and was the perfect person to lead the cooperative effort that was required in preparing an endangered species list. The people involved with her in the early stages consisted of only a few professional botanists plus a corps of eager self-trained amateur naturalists, principally members of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, The Mazamas, The Rock Garden Society, and The Nature Conservancy."

Beginning in 1976, Jean organized the first of four rare plant conferences, at which participants responded to a proposed list of Oregon endangered taxa by writing observations about rarity and threats on worksheets. Data from these, plus detailed sighting reports, were transferred by Jean's group to punch-cards coded by taxon and geographic region. Nowadays such information is kept in computerized databases like that at The Natural Heritage Program, but Jean Siddall and her small corps of workers did it all by hand in the 70s and 80s.

Recently, remembering those days, Sue Vrilakas wrote: "Jean had a combination of intelligence, curiosity and focus, topped off with incredible amounts of energy and enthusiasm." Ultimately Jean's work led directly to the Natural Heritage Data Base and the Oregon Department of Agriculture rare plant program.

Jean Siddall on the Stikine River, southeast Alaska.

After Jean's death, her family arranged for her accumulated data files, maps, punch cards, and reference library to be transferred to the Oregon State University Herbarium. Funds were also donated by the family to initiate a Jean L. Siddall Memorial Botany Scholarship in the OSU Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, to support research projects using the files.

At a memorial service for Jean, Ken Chambers emphasized how important it is that we remember Jean's pioneering work in the protection of Oregon's rare plants. He reminds us that many of today's students are too young to be aware of her reputation as a leading Oregon plant conservationist. However, Jean will be remembered far into the future because her research materials are available to the Oregon Flora and Atlas projects at OSU and a fund has been set up to help integrate her data with present research.

In closing Ken writes: "As I told those who attended her memorial service, when it comes to protecting and conserving Oregon's endangered flora, the plain facts of the matter are: Jean was the pioneer; she initiated the work, and she made it all happen."

Donations to the Jean L. Siddall Memorial Botany Scholarship can be made to the Oregon State University Foundation, 517 Snell Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

What have we learned?

Over the past year we have learned a great deal about Oregon plants from newsletter readers and others. Some information has even come via the Internet, including discussions in the Oregon and Washington Native Plant Society lists.

Several people have reported new plant records or range extensions for Oregon. Frank Callahan II sent us information on 26 taxa. Wilbur Bluhm reported several escaped cultivated plants, many of which had not been included in the Checklist. Examples are *Caltha palustris* (yellow marsh marigold), *Prunus avium* (sweet cherry), *Corylis avellana* (filbert or hazelnut), and *Prunus laurocerasus* (cherry laurel). *Sedum album* (white stonecrop) was found outside of cultivation by Bill Winner. Many other new records have been discovered in the herbarium at OSU.

We have learned that certain words, specifically "squaw" and "scotch," are offensive to some people and have consequently removed them from the Checklist.

We have discovered that we have very few records of plants from Columbia County, in northeastern Oregon. We haven't received any species lists from that county and no sedge (*Carex*) specimens from there have been found in the OSU herbarium. Other genera have not been checked, but this suggests that Columbia County has been floristically overlooked.

Thanks!

We thank the Native Plant Society of Oregon for continuing support from the statewide organization and from the Portland Chapter. Thanks to the following people who have recently sent donations: Jan & Dave Dobak, Linda Hardison, Pat & Noel Holmgren, Rhoda & Glen Love, Jay & Cecilia Lunn, Tektronix Foundation.

Thanks to the following people who helped the project by volunteering (*), sending in species lists or specimens, or providing information on Oregon plants: Wilbur Bluhm, Frank Callahan II, Mary Carlson, Shannon Clery*, Tim Dickinson, Marge Ettinger, Michael Fleming, Joan Fosback, Mary Fries, Clay Gautier*, Ron Hamill*, Linda Hardison*, Lois Hopkins, Keli Kuykendal*, Jay Lunn*, Estella Morgan, Barbara Mumblo, Kathy Pendergrass, Adriane Rhodes*, Kris Steigler*, Mildred Thiele, Gilbert Voss*, Phil Warner*, John Wheeler.

Illustrations of *Erythronium oregonum* on the front and back covers by Linda Ann Vorobik.

Botany and Birds, Too?

Oregon botanists, coordinated through the Native Plant Society, are visiting all corners of the state as part of the Oregon Plant Atlas Project (see OFN April 1996, February 1997, and this issue). Oregon birders and ornithologists also have organized a statewide atlas project. We are developing lists of birds seen in each of 430 geographic units.

If you are traveling this summer to rural areas as part of the Oregon Plant Atlas Project, and can recognize even a few species of birds, the Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas Project would like to know which bird species you encounter. If you notice a nest, that is useful information to note as well. Please send your lists by September 1 if possible. Include general location, for example distance from nearest town, or township-range-section. Send information to: Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas Project, POB 2189, Corvallis, OR 97339. Thank you for your bird sightings. -- *Paul Adamus*

To be added to our mailing list (if not already on it):

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Address ______________________________

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Phone and/or e-mail ____________________

Would you like to make a donation?

Tax-deductable donations can be made to the Oregon Flora Project by sending a check made out to the Oregon State University Foundation to Scott Sundberg at the address on page 8. Please note on the check that it is for the Oregon Flora Project. Your donations go primarily toward newsletter expenses and student wages.

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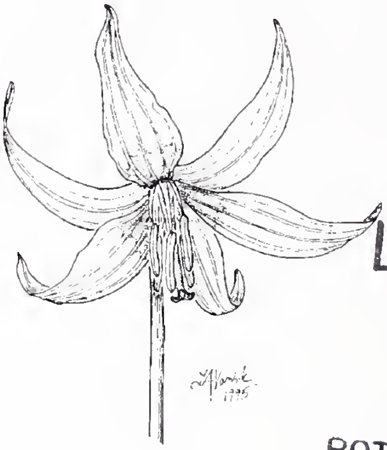

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Did you know?

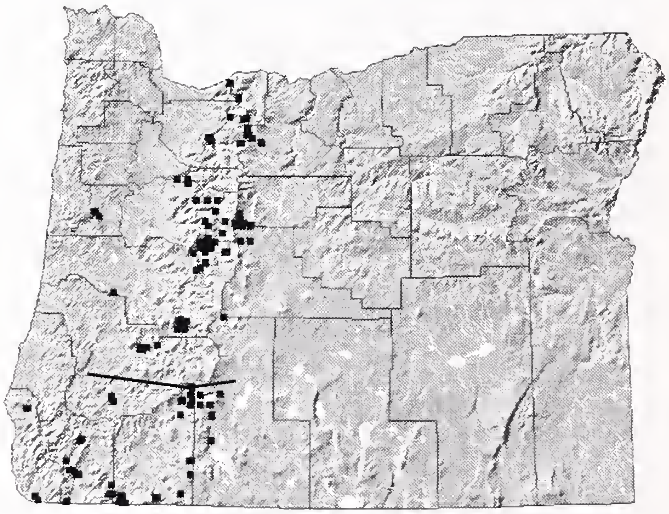
- A number of differences between apples (*Malus*) and pears *(Pyrus)* are reviewed on page nine of this issue. Several of these and others were kindly provided by Kim Hummer of the National Germplasm Repository, Corvallis, including the fact that apples float and pears sink!

- After many years in the field, some botanists may take a humorous approach to intermediate plant forms. One such was apparently Elmer Ivan Applegate (1867-1949) known for his *Flora of Crater Lake* and his monograph of the genus *Erythronium*. In his later years, Applegate was a Ranger-Naturalist at Crater Lake National Park and once reputedly remarked that when the seasonal employees finished their regular chores, they should be put to work "rooting out the intermediates that adversely affect our keys."

- According to the draft Oregon Checklist, Asteraceae is the largest family in Oregon and *Carex* the largest genus.

Sightings of hairstreak butterfly (*Habrodais grunus*) in Oregon

(line indicates the division between northern and southern types)



H. grunus is currently believed to consist of two subspecies. The northern type feeds on chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*), and the southern on canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*). We hope to overlap butterfly distributions such as this with Atlas project maps for the host plants.

Data from the Leptronics butterfly database by Jeffrey Miller (OSU); base map by A. Jon Kimerling (Atlas project).

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OREGON FLORA NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Number 3 • Oregon State University • October 1997

Rhoda Love

by Charlene Simpson

A genuine northwesterner, born and educated in Seattle, Rhoda Love claims she discovered her botanical calling in 1951 during a University of Washington botany class with C. L. Hitchcock. "Hitchy was inspiring. I had a superb education at Washington and will always be grateful to the many fine professors who taught me there," she says.

After graduation and a stint as junior high school teacher, Rhoda returned to UW to obtain her MS in botany, and she continued teaching in Seattle and briefly in California. She and husband Glen moved to Eugene in 1965 where she began 30 years of teaching at Lane Community College. Inspired by her enthusiasm, many of her former students have gone on to botany careers. One recently wrote: "Rhoda expected the best from her

See Rhoda, page 17

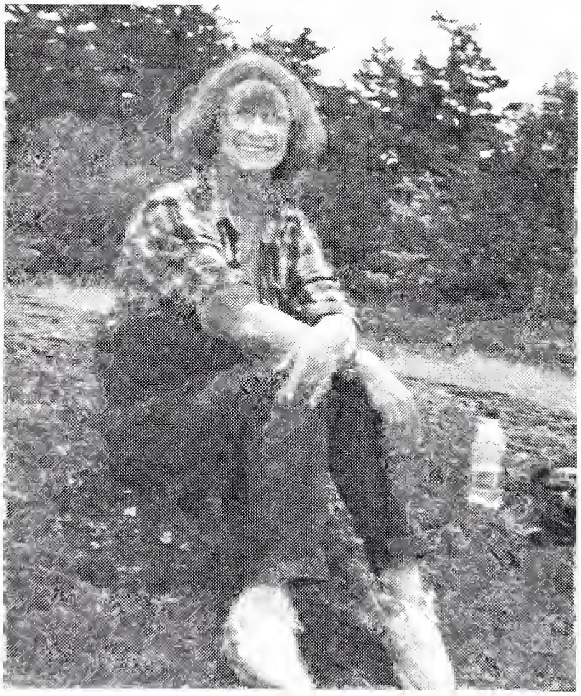


Photo: Jenny Love

Rhoda Love on Mt.Young, San Juan Island, Washington

Some taxonomic notes on Oregon goldenrods, Part I

by Kenton L. Chambers

Members of the genus *Solidago*, family Asteraceae, invariably go by the common name "goldenrod," which is nicely descriptive of their often tall, upright stems topped by masses of small, bright yellow flowering heads. There are around 100 species, primarily of North America. The central and eastern sections of the continent are especially well supplied with them, and the sequential flowering of numerous species provides a showy display during the late summer and early fall. The taxonomy of *Solidago* is quite complex, however, perhaps due to "evolution in progress" in many species groups. Polyploidy, hybridization, morphological elasticity, and ecotypic differentiation all may act to blur the distinctions among species and varieties.

My review of the genus for the Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist consisted of examining all of the herbarium specimens deposited in Corvallis to see whether I could assign them to distinct species using the keys and descriptions found in our standard reference floras. No one has yet done "biosystematic" studies on the genus in Oregon, but we can at least observe the morphological variation seen in herbarium collections, and evaluate how well the published taxonomic treatments agree with the variability found in natural populations. The term "alpha taxonomy" is often used for this kind of morphology-based classification. In my opinion, the treatments done by Arthur Cronquist—presented in *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* and *Intermountain Flora, Vol. 5*—are the most practical and useful for understanding our taxa of *Solidago*, and my checklist agrees with his work for the most part. There are some taxonomic changes, however, which I would like the readers of this Newsletter to be aware of, since they affect the current treatments in *Flora of the Pacific Northwest, The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*, and Peck's *A Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon.*

By far the most common Oregon species is *Solidago*

See Solidago, page 14

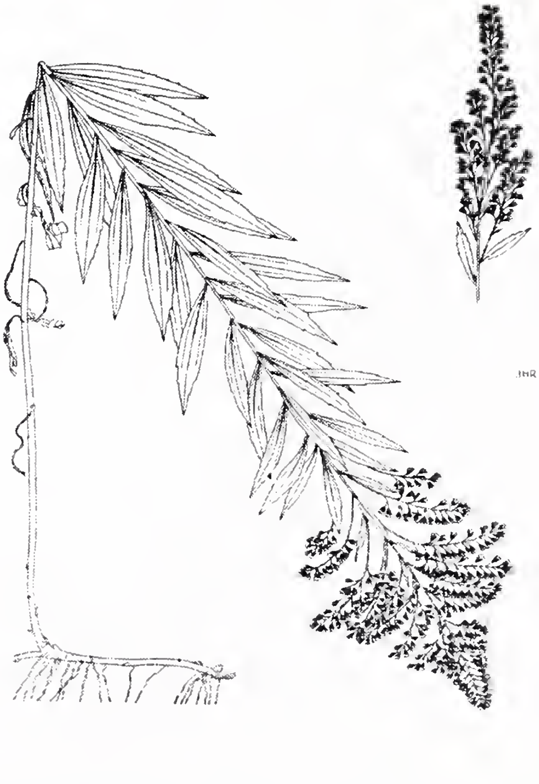
Solidago, continued from front page

canadensis L., Canada goldenrod, which is found all over the state. Cronquist's classification, which I am following, places all the Oregon specimens in variety *salebrosa* (Piper) M.E. Jones. The form of the inflorescence of this taxon is highly variable, ranging from the heads tightly clustered in a small, oblong panicle (technically a "thyrse"), to what are called "pyramidal" panicles whose lower branches are much elongated, studded with small heads, and either strictly erect, arched outward, or widely spreading. Some of this variability is probably genetic and some is the result of growing conditions. I believe plants of higher elevations and other extreme environments may have shorter inflorescence branches and more clustered heads. This type of plant, along with types whose lower inflorescence branches are long but erect (not spreading), comprise what Cronquist calls the "elongata-phase" of var. *salebrosa.* In *The Jepson Manual* the author of *Solidago* raised this "phase" to subspecies status, as ssp. *elongata* (Nutt.) D.D. Keck. Perhaps future genetic studies will tell us whether the various inflorescence forms of *S. canadensis* merit such recognition as separate subspecies.

Very closely related to *Solidago canadensis* is *S. altissima* L., of the eastern United States, which in fact is included in *S. canadensis* by Cronquist. It apparently represents a phase with long, widely spreading-recurved lower inflorescence branches, and indeed such an inflorescence sometimes is seen in Oregon collections. However, as noted above, there is no break in the continuous variation of inflorescence form in our area, and I found no correlation of leaf shape or degree of serration with types of inflorescences. Therefore, I do not accept *S. altissima* as an alien introduction in Oregon, although the treatment in *The Jepson Manual* implies its occurrence here.

Solidago canadensis and the related Oregon species *S. gigantea* Aiton (smooth goldenrod) differ from our other species in having the cauline leaves largest toward the middle of the stem; that is, their largest leaves are not at the base of the stem, with a gradual decrease in leaf-size upwards, as occurs in all our other goldenrod taxa. *Solidago gigantea* grows east of the Cascades and has a non-hairy, glaucous stem and elongate, spreading inflorescence branches, whereas the stems of *S. canadensis* are invariably minutely hairy, especially in the inflorescence.

(Editor's note: Part II of Dr. Chambers' taxonomic notes on goldenrods will appear in the next Oregon Flora Newsletter.)



Solidago canadensis *var.* salebrosa, *The inflorescence illustrated at upper right is the "elongata-phase" of the variety. Illustration by John H. Rumely from Hitchcock et al. 1969,* Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, *courtesy of University of Washington Press.*

The Oregon Flora Newsletter is published three times a year by the Oregon State University Herbarium and the Oregon Flora Project. The Editor is Rhoda Love and the Production Assistant is Alisa Anderson.

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Carex Working Group progress

by Barbara Wilson

The Carex Working Group (CWG) was formed in 1993 when several botanists got together to share an inexplicable interest in sedges. Although others helped, the core sedge enthusiasts have been Richard Brainerd, Keli Kuykendall, Danna Lytjen, Bruce Newhouse, Nick Otting, Barbara Wilson, and Peter Zika.

The CWG quickly produced preliminary maps showing county distribution of each Oregon *Carex* species. We then settled down to produce more detailed maps, a task that proved more complicated than anticipated. Accurate mapping required annotating *Carex* specimens; doing field work to fill in apparent gaps in distribution; databasing specimen label data; finding township, range, and section for all records that lacked them, and editing the database.

The CWG annotated some 4,200 accessioned *Carex* spcimens at the combined herbaria at Oregon State University, nearly 400 specimens from other herbaria, and over 1,000 unaccessioned specimens collected by the CWG or donated by other botanists. Some 400 sight records were also databased.

Slowly we wrestled with difficult distinctions, evaluated the apparent reality of named taxa, and learned the tricks of sedges. Not until late 1995 did the CWG seriously tackle the dreaded Section *Ovales*, which includes *C. pachystachya*, *C. microptera*, and allies. We finished annotating that section in 1997.

CWG members were particularly interested in the difficult Section *Acrocystis*, which includes *C. rossii*. Group members carefully examined these sedges in the field and herbarium, and established some 120 live plants in the greenhouse to determine which foliage characters are genetically based and which result from environmental conditions. We sent live plants to three researchers studying the section. Most exciting, group member Peter Zika recognized that certain Klamath Region plants represented a species new to science; its description is being published.

Carex microptera, *member of the difficult Section* Ovales. *Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish from Hitchcock et al. 1969,* Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, *courtesy of University of Washington Press.*

Thanks to donations from the Native Plant Society of Oregon and its Corvallis and Emerald chapters, CWG employed student workers who performed the bulk of data entry, editing, and researching of township/range data. Data entry began late in 1993, performed by a constantly changing crew. By the end of 1996, when over 6,000 records had been entered, problems had become apparent, highlighted by the first map set generated by Jon Kimerling in January 1997; it showed some sedges growing in highly unlikely places, such as in the ocean!

From January through August 1997, intensive quality control was carried out by student workers Esther Frahm, Andrew Townesmith, and Matilda Sanguino, supervised by Barbara Wilson. Problems ranged from simple typing errors to difficulty deciphering the elegant script of some early Oregon botanists, to accidental deletion of all locality data from 50 records.

As the students edited label data, CWG members tracked down specimens mapped to unlikely places, corrected identifications, and researched possible label errors. Sometimes we simply had to accept that sedges can grow in places we had thought they did not.

Now all database records have been checked. This fall, final *Carex* distribution maps for Oregon will be generated and published. We also hope to make the database available on the internet.

Problems that arose during the CWG project have influenced procedures used for the larger Oregon Flora Project. A mapping process similar to the one developed by Jon Kimerling for *Carex* will be used for the Oregon Plant Atlas.

Where next for the CWG? Projects being considered include writing keys to Oregon *Carex* and expanding our horizons to other taxonomic groups.

Book Review: Intermountain Flora, Volume 3A

by Aaron Liston

Intermountain Flora. Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, U.S.A., *Volume 3, Part A. Subclass Rosidae (except Fabales). By A. Cronquist, N. H. Holmgren, and P. K. Holmgren. 1997. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. ISBN 0-89327-374-0. Hardcover: 422 Pages, 189 Plates. $75.00.*

The sixth and latest installment of the *Intermountain Flora* series was published in May, 1997. Volume 3A is authored by Noel Holmgren and Patricia Holmgren of the New York Botanical Garden, and Arthur Cronquist, who completed many of the family treatments before his death in 1992. This major regional flora, when completed, will provide descriptions, identification keys, and illustrations of all vascular plants in the Great Basin. This area is bounded by the Rocky Mountains to the east and the Sierra Nevada to the west.

Specifically, the geographic coverage encompasses all of Utah, most of Nevada (excluding the southern tip), and adjacent parts of California, Arizona, Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon. For Oregon, this includes most of Harney and Malheur counties, eastern Lake, the "panhandle" of Deschutes, and a small area of Crook County. The northwestern boundary follows "in general the eastern limits of the forested land that stretches out from the main Cascade Range." Thus the *Intermountain Flora* is an essential resource for botanists and plant enthusiasts interested in the flora of the southeastern quarter of our state.

The *Intermountain Flora* follows Cronquist's classification of the angiosperms which recognizes 5 subclasses of monocots and 6 subclasses of dicots. The present volume provides treatments of 40 families in the subclass Rosidae (excluding the legumes, published in 1989 as Volume 3B). Included here are some of the largest families found in the region such as Rosaceae and Apiaceae. Other families include Saxifragaceae, Hydrangeaceae, Onagraceae, Euphorbiaceae and Geraniaceae.

The largest genera are *Camissonia* (Onagraceae, 29 species) and *Lomatium* (Apiaceae, 28 species). These two genera illustrate different patterns of species distribution relative to Oregon: most *Camissonia* species occur in low-elevation deserts, and only half of the Intermountain species reach Oregon. In contrast, three-quarters of the covered *Lomatium* species occur in Oregon, reflecting the fact that species diversity in this genus is highest in the Columbia Basin to the north of the Intermountain Region.

Volume 3A continues the high standards set in previous volumes. The taxonomic descriptions are clear and accurate, and are supplemented by notes on distribution, ecology, unresolved taxonomic problems, etc. Every species is illustrated by a line drawing, generally one half size for the plant habit, with magnifications of flowers, fruits and / or foliage providing sufficient detail for accurate identification. It is appropriate that Volume 3A is dedicated to the illustrators, especially Jeanne Janish, Bobbi Angell, and Robin Jess, "whose skillful drawings give vivid life to the text."

In addition to the complete coverage of the native and naturalized flora, the identification keys include species known from adjacent areas that may eventually be found within the Intermountain Region and commonly cultivated plants that may be mistaken for natives. For example, the inclusion in the keys of ten cultivated maples, six sedums, and seven species of apple "planted in what now seem to be out-of-the-way places, where they appear to be naturalized" is a useful feature.

As Oregon botanists well know, plant identification within the state often requires the consultation of several different floras, and potential frustration arises when conflicting taxonomic treatments are encountered. Overall, Volume 3A takes a fairly conservative attitude towards name changes. Nevertheless, some unfamiliar names encountered in Volume 3A include the binomial *Pentaphylloides fruticosa* (Rosaceae) for *Potentilla fruticosa* (shrubby cinquefoil) and family Parnassiaceae for the genus *Parnassia* (grass of Parnassus). Generic changes from the *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* (but consistent with *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*) include the sinking of *Boisduvalia* and *Zauschneria* into *Epilobium* (Onagraceae) and the segregation of *Chamaesyce* from *Euphorbia* (Euphorbiaceae). It is the evaluation and synthesis of such changes that will be an important component of our own Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist.

The splitting of Parnassiaceae from Saxifragaceae represents a rare departure from Cronquist's classification system. The recognition of Parnassiaceae is based in part on the results of recent molecular phylogenetic analysis. The results of explicit phylogenetic analyses (both morphological and molecular) are also cited for several genera, and in some cases have been incorporated into the taxonomic decision-making process of the authors (e.g. in the synonymizing of *Boisduvalia* with *Epilobium*). Currently, such thorough analyses have been conducted on relatively few plant genera. However, as new sources of data and analytical approaches are being used by an increasing number of plant systematists, one can anticipate continued refinement of our taxonomic concepts, and consequent name changes. The approach adopted in Volume 3A (nomenclatural changes are minimized and when undertaken the rationale is clearly given) strikes a careful balance between promoting nomenclatural stability while incorporating the latest systematic research.

No new species are described in the flora, however 14 nomenclatural changes are made. These are primarily subspecies or species which have been reduced to varieties. In addition, an Oregon species of conservation concern, *Lomatium ravenii*, is considered "a morphological extreme in a continuously variable population" of *L. nevadense*. *Lomatium ravenii* is accepted in *The Jepson Manual*. This ambiguous situation once again highlights the need for taxonomic study of the Oregon flora.

Volume 1 of the *Intermountain Flora* appeared in 1972, the present volume 25 years later for an average of one volume every 4-5 years. Two additional volumes (2A and 2B) are planned, covering the subclasses Magnoliidae, Hamamelidae, Caryophyllidae and Dilleniidae. Volume 3A is an important addition to the bookshelf of Oregon botanists, and a significant step towards the completion of this valuable flora.

Rhoda, continued from front page

students and, knowing that, we usually gave her our best."

Rhoda returned to graduate school for her 1980 PhD from the University of Oregon under plant ecologist Stan Cook. "As the child of relatively unschooled parents, I consider my education to be the most important factor in my life," she tells us.

Rhoda has long been active in the Native Plant Society of Oregon. She worked vigorously for the passage of the Oregon Endangered Species Act of 1987. She was appointed by three governors to terms on the Oregon Natural Heritage Advisory Council, and serves as an advisor to the state Department of Agriculture Rare Plant Program.

When Rhoda learned that a new flora of Oregon was to be launched at OSU she couldn't resist becoming part of the project. She says when she began to volunteer she was at once made to feel welcome by members of the Oregon Flora Project team. She was soon invited to become a Checklist Project Leader and newsletter editor. She is currently writing treatments of the pome-fruited Rosaceae for the Checklist.

Rhoda has also been providing common names for all taxa on the Oregon Checklist. A rule she proposed, which was approved by the Checklist core group, was to drop all hyphens. "My work on the Flora project is now one of the most exciting and satisfying activities in my life," she says. Another, she hastens to add, is watching her two children, Stan and Jenny, mature and prosper, and visiting her first grandchild born last year in Pasadena to her son and his wife.

Illustrations of *Erythronium oregonum* on the front and back covers by Linda Ann Vorobik.

Project News

by Scott Sundberg

Imagine having over 2,000 species lists, approximately 160,000 herbarium specimens, and several computer files with information on the distributions of Oregon plants. Think of fifteen part-time student employees compiling, entering, and checking data, and dozens of other people from around the state helping in a wide variety of ways. Imagine also technical experts in taxonomy, cartography, and software development tapping away on computers. And think of the donations received from the Native Plant Society of Oregon and several individuals, which provide most of our funding. You've pictured the hum of activity in the OSU herbarium where we are busy building portions of the electronic Oregon Atlas from a huge data set. The pace of activity has dramatically increased in the past few weeks! Shortly we want to produce prototype color distribution maps of dozens of plant species.

The Checklist continues to improve, and currently has 4,426 native and naturalized taxa and 2,020 synonyms. We plan to release the Asteraceae by the end of the year. Watch our website.

Thanks!

Thanks to the Native Plant Society of Oregon for continuing financial support from the state organization and Portland, Umpqua Valley and Willamette chapters. Thanks also to the following individuals who have recently contributed to the project: Sara Barnum & Joyce Beeman, Keith & Mary Chamberlain, Linda Hardison, Rhoda & Glen Love, John & Phyllis Reynolds, Veva Stansell, and Barbara Wilson.

Thanks to the following who have helped by volunteering, sending species lists or specimens, or providing information on Oregon plants: Wilbur Bluhm, Jeff Braatne, Frank Callahan II, Mary Carlson, Shannon Clery, Michael Fleming, Joan Fosback, Clay Gautier, Linda Hardison, Rebecca Harper, Don Heinze, Lois Hopkins, Darryl Ianni, Mohamed Jabbes, Keli Kuykendall, Jay Lunn, Judith Manning, Steve Northway, Elaine Plaisance, Virginia Post, Wayne Rolle, Freeman Rowe, Hope Stubbe, Mildred Thiele, Maxine Thompson, Barbara Wilson, and Michael Woodbridge.

To be added to our mailing list (if not already on it):

Name ______________________________

Address ____________________________

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Phone and/or e-mail ____________________

Would you like to make a donation?

Tax-deductable donations can be made to the Oregon Flora Project by sending a check made out to the Oregon State University Foundation to Scott Sundberg at the address on page 14. Please note on the check that it is for the Oregon Flora Project. Your donations go primarily toward newsletter expenses and student wages.

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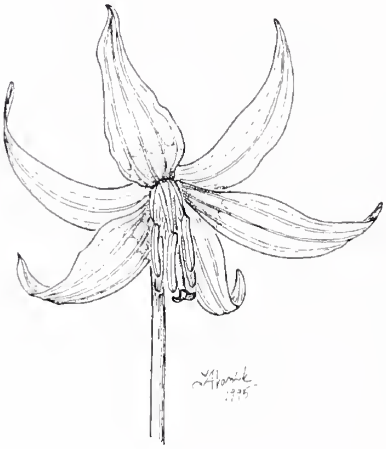

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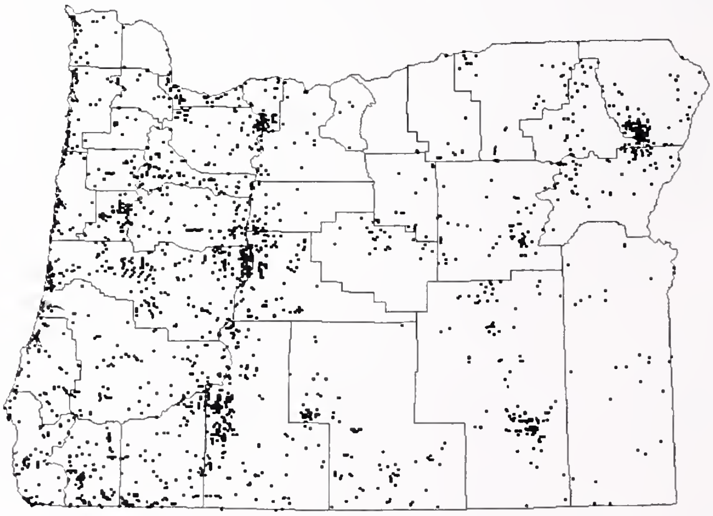
Did you know?

- Corn (*Zea mays*), an American native plant, was introduced to China by the year 1550 and grew so quickly in importance as a crop that it became a significant factor in the 18th Century increase in the Chinese population.
- The first plant family to be monographed was the carrot family (Apiaceae or Umbelliferae). Robert Morison published a scientific study of the family in 1672.
- *Fragaria chiloensis*, our Oregon coastal strawberry, was introduced to France in 1712 by a certain Captain Frenzier. It was used for cross-breeding and its genes are present in today's commercial strawberry varieties.

The botanical history notes above are from The Huntington Library Plant Trivia website and are used by permission. OFN readers can visit this interesting site at ***http://www.Huntington.org/BotanicalDiv/Timeline.html***

Sedge records in the Carex Working Group database



Each dot represents a sedge collection or observation site, including specimen label information from the three herbaria at Oregon State University. One or more *Carex* species were found in the 2,116 localities shown. Interesting patterns can be seen, including popular collecting areas, roads and streams. Large blanks indicate poorly sampled areas.